

**MINUTES**  
**WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 25, 2016**  
**7:30 A.M.**  
**WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**10 HARRIS AVENUE**

*This meeting was called to order by Stephen H. Lawton, Chairperson.*

**Members Present:**

Stephen Lawton, Chairperson  
Christopher Messier, Vice-Chairperson  
Rene Coutu, Clerk  
Patricia Keenan

**Member Absent:**

Luis Colon

**Administrators Present:**

Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools

**Recording Secretary:**

Michelle M. Colozzo

**1. Open Session**

**Open Session**

Mr. Lawton opened the meeting at 7:30 A.M.

**2. Roll Call**

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Mr. Lawton, Mr. Messier, Mr. Coutu, and Mrs. Keenan. Mr. Colon was absent.

**3. Bid Award: Maisie E. Quinn School Classroom Door Replacement**

**Bid Award: Maisie E. Quinn School Classroom Door Replacement**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the bid award submitted by New England School Services, 12 Greco Lane, Warwick, RI, in the amount of \$86,072.00 for the replacement of classroom doors at Maisie E. Quinn School.

## Special School Committee Meeting

April 25, 2016

Page 2 of 4

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD SUBMITTED BY NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL SERVICES, 12 GRECO LANE, WARWICK, RI, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,072.00 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CLASSROOM DOORS AT MAISIE E. QUINN SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Rene Coutu, for discussion.

Mr. Lawton asked if this is to replace all of the doors and security locks inside all of the classrooms, and Mrs. Tarasevich said yes.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **4. Discussion/Approval: Memorandum of Agreement**

#### **Discussion/Approval: Memorandum of Agreement Between the West Warwick School Committee and the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance Re: Article 11, Section 5 (Term Life Insurance)**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Between the West Warwick School Committee and the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance Re: Article 11, Section 5 (Term Life Insurance).

Mrs. Tarasevich said this is a follow-up to the change in life insurance rates for retirees. The rates had gone way up, and Joe Spagna worked really hard with the insurance company to bring them down; but it affected the teachers' contract so he worked to get them a better rate. She said to Joe's credit, he did a good job. Mr. Coutu said so it puts them on an equal platform. Mrs. Tarasevich said it had to do with banding; instead of a flat rate, there was age banding; and the change was enormous—in some cases \$700 per month more. She said that had an impact on the teachers' contract, so he flattened that out.

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY PATRICIA KEENAN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE**

## Special School Committee Meeting

April 25, 2016

Page 3 of 4

**THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE RE: ARTICLE 11, SECTION 5 (TERM LIFE INSURANCE).** Motion seconded by Christopher Messier. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, Patricia Keenan, and Stephen Lawton. Motion passed 4 to 0.

**5. Discussion/Approval:  
Discretionary Leave  
Request**

**Discussion/Approval: Discretionary Leave  
Request – Grade 5 Teacher – John F. Deering  
Middle School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of a request for discretionary leave from Melissa Kerns, Grade 5 Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, effective during the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Tarasevich said the reason she wanted to put this on the agenda now, before the May meeting, is that we are working on teacher placement—we will be working on that today; and we want to be able to include this position in the mix.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE DISCRETIONARY LEAVE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY MELISSA KERNS, GRADE 5 TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL EFFECTIVE DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion passed 4 to 0.

**6. Discussion/Approval:  
Maternity and Parental  
Leave**

**Discussion/Approval: Maternity and Parental  
Leave: Special Education Teacher – Wakefield  
Hills Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of a request for maternity and parental leave submitted by Tiffany David Dunn, Grade 4 Special Education Teacher at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective approximately

## Special School Committee Meeting

April 25, 2016

Page 4 of 4

September 10, 2016 and continuing for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Tarasevich said again, if we approve this, we can fill this now.

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE SUBMITTED BY TIFANY DAVID DUNN, GRADE 4 SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 AND CONTINUING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Patricia Keenan. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Patricia Keenan, Christopher Messier, and Stephen Lawton. Motion passed 4 to 0.

## 7. Adjournment

### Adjournment

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Patricia Keenan, Rene Coutu, Christopher Messier, and Stephen H. Lawton. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Rene Coutu, Clerk

---

Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder